Many, perhaps most, recent climate articles written by environmental sociologists are about impacts and about responses (for example, on climate activism, our topic #15; denial, topic #16; public opinion, topic #19), but environmental sociologists have also contributed to the discussion of causes.

The best known contribution has been the articulation, and subsequent refinement, of the IPAT concept: Impact = Population x Affluence x Technology … but the environmental sociology literature discusses other ways to conceptualize sociological causes, as well.

Some suggestions if you are doing research on SOCIAL CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE – Scholarship in the field of Environmental Sociology:

You can search by author. Here are the names of some environmental sociologists who have written about social causes of climate change: Brett Clark, Thomas Dietz, Andrew Jorgenson, Timmons Roberts, Eugene Rosa, Richard York.

To help you get started, some articles, chapters:


Nagel, et al, “Workshop on Sociological Perspectives on Global Climate Change” [search for this on Google and download PDF; read, especially, pp 13-16]


